

# ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Tucson Active Management Area Office  
400 West Congress Street  
Suite #518  
Tucson, Arizona 85701  
Telephone 520-770-3800  
Fax 520-628-6759



**JANET NAPOLITANO**  
Governor

**HERB GUENTHER**  
Director

July 30, 2003

Re: Upper San Pedro Basin Review Update

Dear Interested Party,

This letter is being sent as part of the ongoing effort to keep you informed of the activities of the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) in its review of the Upper San Pedro Basin (Basin) for possible designation as an active management area. The director of ADWR may designate an area as an active management area (AMA) if any of the following exists: 1) active management practices are necessary to preserve the existing supply of groundwater for future needs; 2) land subsidence or fissuring is endangering property or potential groundwater storage capacity; or 3) use of groundwater is resulting in actual or threatened water quality degradation. These three criteria form the framework of ADWR's review that will culminate in a report of our findings.

It has been some time since the last update, and I appreciate your patience. The last update provided a status report of our review and information explaining the reason for the delay in completion of our review. The Department continues to be affected by the State's budget deficit in terms of personnel cuts and increased workload for remaining staff, which has delayed completion of the review. However, we have recently been able to devote more of our limited resources to this project and have made some significant progress.

- The separate Hydrologic Map Series (HMS) Report that will present December 2001 groundwater level survey data and changes in groundwater levels since ADWR published its last HMS of the area (1991) is in its final review. We will notify you as soon as it is available.
- We have refined the water use and hydrologic data and are conducting the final edits of the report. Efforts are being made to expedite completion of the report while still maintaining our commitment to producing a sound and accurate review of the Basin. Peer review of the hydrologic component of the study, a standard procedure, will be done by hydrologists from outside the agency.
- At the invitation of the Upper San Pedro Partnership, I will be presenting the water demand information we have generated, including projections, for the Sierra Vista sub-area of the Basin (the area of the Basin south of Fairbank). The meeting is scheduled for August 13 at 10:00 in the Mona Bishop Room at the Sierra Vista Library. Similar water demand

information is also available for the Benson sub-area of the Basin (the area of the Basin north of Fairbank) and can be presented, upon request, at a public meeting.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, a complete summary of our findings will be released when the review is complete, with opportunity for comment. At that time we plan to schedule two public meetings, one in Sierra Vista and one in Benson to discuss the findings. We will notify the public, including all of you on our mailing list, when the summary is available for review and comment.

Again, I appreciate your patience and interest. As always, if you have questions or comments or would like a packet of Open House handouts or previous newsletters, you may reach me at 520-770-3800 or by email at [lsstitzer@adwr.state.az.us](mailto:lsstitzer@adwr.state.az.us).

Sincerely,

Linda Stitzer  
Coordinator, Upper San Pedro Basin Review